

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 NSC-05 DHA-05 /070 W
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R 301650Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7596
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS GOQE
AMEMBASSY ROME
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 1193

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION: HIGHLIGHTS OF REYKJAVIK
MEETINGS, AUGUST 26-29

REF: (A) REYKJAVIK 1172 (NOTAL) (B) REYKJAVIK 1173 (NOTAL)
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SUMMARY: FIRST ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION (ATA)
MEETING IN REYKJAVIK HELD AUGUST 26-29. HIGHLIGHTS WERE
PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO ATA PRESIDENT MOMMER AND
SPEECHES BY NATO SEC GEN LUNSGN SACLANT ADMIRAL KIDD, NATO
MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GUNDERSEN, AND GOI OFFICIALS.
PM HALLGRIMSSON CALLED NATO ONE OF CORNERSTONES OF ICE-

LAND'S FOREIGN POLICY. FONMIN AGUSTSSON FOLLOWED PM'S LEAD BUT MORE CAUTIOUSLY WALKED PROGRESSIVE PARTY LINE OF SUPPORT FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP BUT PRESENCE OF ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE ONLY SO LONG AS NECESSARY. FINAL RESOLUTION APGA PROVED UNANIMOUSLY AFTER SOME WRANGLING OVER DETENTE AND EUROCOMMUNISM. MEETING RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY AND GENERATED ONLY SMALL DEMONSTRATION BY ICELANIDC OPPONENTS OF NATO AND ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE. WE BELIEVE MEETING HAD POSITIVE EFFECT ON ICELANDERS AS REMINDER OF NATO'S ROLE IN THEIR SECURITY AND IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING LINKS TO NON-NORDIC WESTERN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOUR-DAY MEETING REYKJAVIK OF ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION (ATA) ENDED AUGUST 29. FINAL RESOLUTION, IN PREPARATION OF WHICH STRONG US DELEGATION HEADED BY ATA VICE PRESIDENT EUGENE ROSTOW PLAYED MAJOR ROLE, BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT. MEETING, WHICH WAS 23RD ANNUAL GATHERING, AND FIRST IN REYKJAVIK, OF DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE CITIZENS FROM 16 COUNTRIES (INCLUDING, FOR FIRST TIME, SPAIN) WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO ATA PRESIDENT KARL MOMMER (REF A), WHICH

WAS PASSED TO MOMMER BY AMBASSADOR BENNETT OF U.S. DELEGATION. LETTER, WITH ITS STRONG AFFIRMATION OF US COMMITMENT TO NATO AND TO CONCEPTS OF FORWARD STRATEGY AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, WAS WARMLY APPLAUDED BY DELEGATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO WHOM MOMMER READ TEXT. WE UNDERSTAND IT ALSO FORMED DEPARTURE POINT FOR SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTIONS PREPARED BY DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

2. DETAILED PRESENTATIONS OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT MILITARY STRENGTH WERE GIVEN BY GEN. H. F. ZEINER GUNDERSEN, CHAIRMAN, NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, AND BY ADMIRAL ISSAC C. KIDD, JR., SACLANT. BOTH SPEAKERS STRUCK WARNING NOTES ON TREND IN SOVIET MILITARY CAPABILITIES BUT THEIR REMARKS WERE BALANCED IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE, THEREBY ENHANCING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. FOR ICELANDIC AUDIENCE, WHICH INCLUDED PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON AND FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON, SACLANT'S PRESENTATION ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS SOBERING ACCOUNT OF PROBLEMS POSED FOR NATO, INCLUDING ICELAND'S REINFORCEMENT AND RESUPPLY, BY GROWING SOVIET NAVAL POWER.

3. SPEECH BY SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS ON OPENING DAY CONTAINED VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF NATO AS FORCE FOR PEACE THAT HAS PROVEN ITS VALUE SINCE ITS INCEPTION. IN HIS ADDRESS SECRETARY GENERAL REFERRED TO CURRENT DEBATE

ON STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOVIET UNION AND WHAT THE WEST COULD AND SHOULD DO ABOUT IT. HE DESCRIBED DEBATE AS ONE OF QTE GREAT IMPORTANCE IN CLARIFYING WHAT IS AT STAKE AS REGARDS NOT ONLY THE THREAT FROM OUTSIDE BUT ALSO THE MANY FACETED ELEMENTS THREATENING OUR SOCIETY AND SECURITY FROM THE INSIDE. UNQTE LUNS ALSO COMMENTED ON PUBLIC DEBATE OVER ENHANCED RADIA-TION WARHEAD GKREF B). WE BELIEVE HIS REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT MAY HAVE ADDED PERSPECTIVE AT LEAST AS FAR AS ICELANDERS ARE CONCERNED. BOTH RADIO AND PRESS GAVE THIS ASPECT OF SPEECH CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION.

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4. ATA ASSEMBLY PROVIDED FORUM FOR GOI OFFICIALS
AND OTHER ICELANDIC POLITICAL FIGURES TO MAKE PRO-NATO

REMARKS IN FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT. (AUGUST 28 DEMONSTRATION BY ABOUT FORTY YOUNG OPPONENTS OF NATO AND IDF WAS QUIET AND ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION.) IN WELCOMING STATEMENT, PM GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, NOTING NECESSITY OF NATO, REMINDED ICELANDERS THAT WITH GROWING NAVAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREAT AROUND THEM, THEIR SECURITY IS CLOSELY LINKED TO THAT OF OTHER ALLIANCE MEMBERS. REMARKS OF FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON REFLECTED PROGRESSIVE PARTY LINE WHICH SUPPORTS NATO MEMBERSHIP AND CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE ONLY AS LONG AS INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT IT. PARTY CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND ALTHING MEMBER BENEDIKT GRONDAL, HOWEVER, RECALLING INCREASED SOVIET ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN REGION, GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO NATO AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED.

5. WITH EXCEPTION OF THJODVILJINN, PARTY ORGAN OF EXTREME LEFTIST PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, MEDIA COVERAGE WAS EXTENSIVE AND QUITE FAVORABLE. AT SMALL PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 29, MOMMER AND ROSTOW FIELDDED QUESTIONS ON VARIETY OF NATO-RELATED MATTERS FROM WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION TO EUROCOMMUNISM BUT SUBJECT OF IDF WAS NOT RAISED.

6. APPROVAL OF FINAL RESOLUTION TOOK SOME EFFORT, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING WORDING OF SECTIONS ON DETENTE AND ON EUROCOMMUNISM. ON DETENTE, HEAD OF NORWEGIAN DELEGATION JOHAN JORGEN HOLST SOUGHT TO MODIFY DRAFT TEXT QTE SOVIET POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED UNQTE TO READ QTE SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY HAS NOT BECOME MORE REASSURING UNQTE. GUDMUNDUR GARDASSON, HEAD OF ICELANDIC ATA AND INDEPENDENCE MEMBER OF ALTHING, ASKED WHEN SOVIET POLICY HAD EVER BEEN REASSURING, SIR FRANK ROBERTS SAID HE THOUGHT RECENT SOVIET POLITICAL/MILITARY INITIATIVES, E.G., IN ANGOLA, WERE OF TYPE SOVIETS WOULD NEVER HAVE ATTEMPTED DURING PERIOD HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW. (ANGOLA WAS REFERRED TO SEVERAL TIMES IN SESSIONS AS DISTURBING INDICATION OF SOVIET ABILITY AND READINESS TO PROJECT ITS MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POWER INTO AREAS FAR OUTSIDE ITS HISTORIC SPHERE OF INTEREST WITHOUT CHALLENGE FROM WEST.) FINAL TEXT OF SENTENCE READ QTE SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY HAS NOT BECOME REASSURING IN RECENT YEARS UNQTE. NURI BERGI,

CHAIRMAN OF TURKISH DELEGATION, STRONGLY URGED ASSEMBLY
INCLUDE REFERENCE TO QTE SOVIET IMPERIALISM UNQTE
IN ITS RESOLUTIONS, AND THIS WAS DONE. OTHER RESOLU-
TIONS CALLED FOR SUPPORT FOR INCREASED MILITARY EX-
PENDITURES AND EXPRESSED ASSEMBLY'S DESIRE FOR EXPEDI-
TIOUS RESOLUTION OF GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEM.

7. OVER-ALL, EMBASSY BELIEVES CONVENING OF ATA MEETING
IN ICELAND WAS HELPFUL IN TERMS OUR INTERESTS HERE.
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPATION IT ATTRACTED AND LOCAL
PUBLICITY IT GENERATED REMINDED ICELANDERS OF THEIR
ROLE IN ALLIANCE. IT ALSO APPEARED THAT IT WAS USEFUL
IN HELPING OTHER DELEGATES BETTER UNDERSTAND ICELAND'S
PARTICULAR PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MEMBERSHIP. WE
UNDERSTAND ONE OUTCOME OF ASSEMBLY WILL BE FEBRUARY
SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY ICELANDIC ATA ON SUBJECT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS. AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S COMMENTS FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE
BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.
BLAKE

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